

# Arum Lily

Series: Environmental Weed Factsheet  
Ranked 26 — Worst weed in Yarra Ranges



**Common Name:** Arum Lily

**Botanical Name:** *Zantedeschia aethiopica*

**Origin:** south and south-east Africa

**Size:** 1.5m H, 1.5m W

**Flowers:** August—February

**Fruit:** April—July

**Best removal time:** September—  
March

## How to dispose of weeds:

### Recovery & Transfer centres:

- Healesville
- Wesburn
- Coldstream
- Lysterfield

*Note: For a free tip voucher to dispose weeds, contact the Environment Dept. on 1300 368 333. Limited availability.*

OR

### Fortnightly Garden Organics Bin

**Service.** *Note: This service is only available to properties within eligible service areas. For more information, contact the Waste Management services on 1300 368 333.*

OR

**Bundled green waste service.** *Note: Check your Residential Recycling & Waste guide for details of the next service in your area.*

## What it does...

Invades gardens, waterways, irrigation ditches, pastures, bushland and roadside areas. A widespread weed of damp areas. Takes over and chokes out indigenous plants, impeding water flow. Considered poisonous to people and all animals.

## How it spreads...

Spreads:

- by seed and vegetatively (rhizome growth or fragments).
- by being transported by soil movement and wind.
- by dumping garden waste in bushland areas.
- as it is commonly sold at markets, nurseries, fetes and club fundraisers. Buyer Beware!

## What it looks like...

A perennial, deep green plant with large arrow-head shaped leaves in clumps to 1.5m high. Large, showy white “flowers” with a protruding yellow spike in the centre on a tall fleshy stem. The roots can appear similar to a large ginger root. All parts can cause irritation to the mucous membranes of the mouth, throat and eyes.

## How to remove it...



**HAND:** This is only practical for small clumps of the plant. It is important to remove all roots from beneath the soil. Alternatively, cut the flower heads before seeding to help prevent spreading. Brush cutting or mowing can be done regularly.



**DIG OUT:** You will need to ensure that all the root material is removed when digging out. It is important to avoid dumping the soil elsewhere on your property as this will further distribute the weed. The area should be monitored for any regrowth.

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## Indigenous alternatives to plant...

Many lily and iris alternatives exist that are indigenous to the Yarra Ranges region and would make great substitutes for the Arum Lily.

Some alternatives include:



Spiny Mat Rush, *Lomandra longifolia*



Tasman Flax Lily, *Dianella tasmanica*



Butterfly Flag, *Diplarrena moraea*



Photos: Caroline Carvalho; Biodiversity library, Emma Campbell, Marty White

## Useful websites

The following is a list of useful information resources:

- For a list of indigenous plant nurseries, see [Indigenous Plant Nurseries list](#).
- For a list of other weeds in Yarra Ranges, see [Environmental Weeds list](#).
- For a list of chemical/herbicide contractors, see [Contractor and supplier list](#).
- For descriptions of the local plants and the weeds of the Shire of Yarra Ranges see [www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/plants](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/plants)



## WARNING IF USING CHEMICALS

If you are weeding, all chemical use must be done as per manufacturers' guidelines. Ensure that you wear protective clothing/eye wear at all times. Take care and protect yourself, your family, pets and the natural environment (waterways, indigenous plants, wildlife) from coming into contact with chemicals.

When purchasing your herbicide always ask for a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). Product suppliers are required to make these sheets available at the point of sale. If a sheet is not available, notify the product manufacturer and the state authority. For further information go to [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au) or call the Poisons Information Service on 13 11 26.

For information on State-listed noxious weeds contact the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) on 136 186. Remember, as a landowner you are required by State law to control and remove noxious weeds on your land.

Produced by the Environment Department of Yarra Ranges Council.  
Working with communities to wipe out weeds for a better future.

